

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 25, 2005

Washington, DC 20515

Montana High School Art Teachers
Re: Congressional Art Competition

Dear Art Educator,

In 1982, Members of Congress initiated an annual art competition entitled *An Artistic Discovery*. Every year since its inception, House Members have held locally judged competitions within their districts. The winning piece of art from each Congressional district is displayed in the Cannon Tunnel, a pedestrian walkway leading to the United States Capitol, for one year. This walkway is frequented by Members of Congress, staff and the general public as they enter the Capitol Building and thus provides an opportunity for thousands to enjoy the artistic talents of young artists from every Congressional district. The artwork will be on display for one year and will then be returned to the student.

I would like to invite the students of your high school to participate in *An Artistic Discovery* this year. This is a unique opportunity to showcase the creativity of Montana's students.

Due to the generosity of Northwest Airlines and the Holiday Inn Downtown, the first place entry winner will receive complimentary airfare and hotel accommodations so that he or she may attend the unveiling ceremony here in Washington D.C. Complimentary airfare will also be provided for an accompanying parent or guardian.

Each student participating in the contest should mail their art to the address below:

Congressman Denny Rehberg
1201 Grand Avenue, Suite 1
Billings, MT 59102

The deadline for receiving an original entry is May 13, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. The enclosed student release form must accompany the artwork or be faxed in advance to my Billings office at (406) 256-4934. This ensures the winning student's artwork will be included in the unveiling ceremony in Washington, D.C. An Avery label must also be affixed to the art piece. Please see the enclosed rules for further details about the competition.

I look forward to seeing your students' artwork in this competition and working with you to provide a tribute to the creativity of our nation's students. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Bond in my Billings office at 1-888-232-2626 or 406-256-1019.

Sincerely,



Denny Rehberg
Montana's Congressman

Enclosures: Guidelines, Student Release Form, Confirmation Form

Congressional Art Competition Guidelines 2005

General Guidelines

- The competition is open to high school students only.
Exceptions will be made for schools that have 7 through 12th grades in one building.
(Each district can choose, individually whether or not to include grades 7th and 8th in the art show if there are schools in their district that fit this criteria.)
- Official resources are to be used only to the extent authorized by the Committee on House Administration and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.
- In order to allow a work of art to hang in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol, the following restrictions are necessary: - Two-dimensional only.
 - Each work of art can be no larger than 32 inches by 32 inches to the outside dimensions of the frame.
 - Artwork cannot be more than 4 inches in depth.
 - Artwork must arrive in Washington framed to the appropriate framing guidelines.
- Art work categories are as follows:
 - Paintings (oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.)
 - Drawings (pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers, etc.)
 - Collage: must be two dimensional
 - Prints (lithographs, silkscreen, block prints)
 - Mixed media
 - Computer generated art
 - Photography
- Each entry must be an original in concept, design and execution and may not violate any U.S. copyright laws.
 - An attached form must be signed by the teacher and the student to certify the originality of the piece.
 - NOTE: Any entry which has been reproduced from an existing photo, painting or any other work produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and WILL NOT be accepted!

Suitability Guidelines

- The final decision regarding suitability for exhibition in the Capitol is left to a Panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of the Capitol. While it is not the intent to censor any artwork, we do wish to avoid artwork that is potentially inappropriate for display in the Capitol.
- Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission. In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or of a sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed. It is necessary that all artwork be reviewed by the panel chaired by the Architect of the Capitol and any portions not in consonance with the Commission's policy will be omitted from the exhibit.

Framing Guidelines

As directed by the House Oversight and Standards of Official Conduct Committees, each district winner is responsible for framing his or her winning entry. Any hardship cases should be assisted at the district level; the work cannot be framed by the Architect of the Capitol.

- Framed work should be no larger than 32 inches high, 32 inches wide, and 4 inches deep including the outside dimensions of the frame. **Please double check size before sending the entry.**
- Frames should be as simple and as sturdy as possible. **Metal frames are recommended.**
- Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully prepared.
- All work, except for oil paintings, should be protected by Plexiglas or glass.
- Plexiglas is better to use than glass over the artwork in order to avoid breakage. If glass is used, cover the entire surface completely with masking tape prior to shipping.
- Use sturdy hangers. Two hooks should be attached at the top and at the right and the left sides of the back of the work in order to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly.
- **No "snap on" frames with glass are to be used.**
- Since frames will be suspended by wire from overhead molding, please do not put wire between the hooks
- Do not attach labels, ribbon, etc. to the front of the piece or underneath the glass or Plexiglas.
- If the artwork is abstract in design, please indicate on the backside which side is up.
- A copy of the Student Information Release Form must be attached to the back of the artwork along with an adhesive label as shown. (Please make sure you retain a copy for your office.)
- **Use the largest label you have available.**

Adhesive Label

Members name State and District Title of piece Student's name Student's address and phone number Medium
--

Artwork must be delivered by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, May 13 2005. Please deliver to the following office:

Congressman Denny Rehberg
1201 Grand Avenue, Suite #1
Billings, MT 59102

Any questions should be directed to Ruth Bond, competition coordinator, at either 406-256-1019 or 1-888-232-2626.

An Artistic Discovery
Student Information/Release Form

MEMBER: _____ STATE: _____

Note: This form is used for printing of programs and certificates. Please make sure all information is complete and correct.

ART STUDENT'S NAME: _____ GRADE: _____

NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (HOME) _____ (WORK) _____

SCHOOL: _____ ART TEACHER: _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____

ART TEACHER PHONE: _____

TITLE OF ENTRY: _____

MEDIUM: _____ (Be specific) FRAMED DIMENSIONS: _____

Originality Certification

I hereby certify that this is my original work and that it is not copied from a published photograph, magazine, book illustration, web site, or by another person.

Teacher's Signature and Date

Student's Signature and Date

Artwork Release

In consideration of your acceptance of an art entry in "An Artistic Discovery", the Congressional Art competition sponsored by the Congressional Members Organization, and intending to be legally bound hereby, the undersigned grant you our consent for public display in accordance with the rules of the Art Competition of the said art entry if selected in accordance with the rules of the Art Competition. The undersigned hereby releases you, your agents and the United States from any and all liability for damage, loss, or misappropriation of the art entry. The undersigned further represents that this art entry is an original work of art personally executed by the entrant for which the entrant has secured, or is entitled to secure a copyright. The undersigned further grants to the Government, through its agent, the Congressional Members Organization, the right to authorize and include this work in an derivative work, such as a compilation wherein this work is depicted as one of a set representing the competition, "An Artistic Discovery", in a book or pamphlet form for the benefit of the Government. Notwithstanding the above, the undersigned shall retain all proprietary rights, including but not limited to legal title, and beneficial copyright ownership in the art entry during and subsequent to the Art Competition, but grant you, your agents, and the United States a gratuitous license to use the art entry and photocopy or reproduce the same for any non-commercial purpose. The undersigned further agrees to indemnify, hold harmless and defend you, our agents, and the United States against any and all claims of any nature whatsoever, including any relating to copyright infringement, by any party whatsoever, arising out of or in any way related to this agreement and the display thereunder of the proffered art entry. The final decision regarding the suitability of an entry to be displayed in the Capitol will be made by a panel chaired by the Architect of the Capitol. If I win I agree to allow my entry to hang in the Capitol for the entire year of the exhibition.

Parent /Guardian Signature and Date

Student's Signature and Date

CONFIRMATION FORM

This is to confirm that our school _____
(Name of school)

plans to participate in the Congressional Art Competition, "
An Artistic Discovery."

You may contact me or leave any messages during the day
at the following phone number:

_____.

I understand art work must be submitted by May 13, 2005
at 5:00p.m.

_____ Art Teacher's
Name

Please return as soon as possible to:

U.S. Rep. Denny Rehberg Fax No. (406) 256-4934
1201 Grand Avenue, #1
Billings, MT 59102 Phone: (406) 256-1019